



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cambridge Arts Council Presents the 30th Cambridge River Festival

A FREE Festival of Music, Dance, & the Arts along the Charles River

June 13, 2009, 12 Noon – 6pm (rain or shine)

Cambridge, MA – The 30th Annual **Cambridge River Festival** creates a splash on Saturday, June 13, 2009, 12 Noon - 6pm (rain or shine) with a FREE, one-day celebration of the arts along the banks of the Charles River. With 30 years under its belt, the River Festival has become a venerable Cambridge “institution” and much-anticipated, annual event produced by the Cambridge Arts Council (CAC), the city’s official arts agency.

Experience a wide array of Cambridge-based visual and performing arts which extend a mile-long stretch of Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Western Avenue. The **Cambridge River Festival** features multiple stages of national and local jazz, folk, world music, dance, poetry and theater performances by local Cambridge artists, venues, arts and cultural organizations including Central Square Theater, The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, TOAD and the Lizard Lounge. Browse through a market of 150 craftspeople and feast on a grand assortment of specialty foods and traditional festival fare. Engage in interactive, family, art-making activities, performances, workshops and demonstrations. Connect with an array of arts, cultural, and community organizations active year-round in Cambridge, and get inspired to delve more deeply into the local arts scene! The Cambridge River Festival is FREE and held RAIN or SHINE. Information is available at www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the **Cambridge River Festival**, the Cambridge Arts Council honors the roots of the festival by focusing exclusively on local or “home-grown” artistic talent and traditions. Beginning in the 1970s with a group of artists and activists known as the “Art Army,” the Cambridge River Festival served as the culmination of a variety of grass-roots art interventions and activities called “Art Attacks.” These “attacks” were designed to celebrate the notion that art exists in the everyday situations and circumstances of urban life and enriches our collective experience by its presence. These “attacks” in the form of musical events, micro-celebrations, poetry, dance and temporary public artworks culminated with a grand procession down to the Charles River and day-long festival showcasing the richness of the arts in Cambridge.

The tradition continues in 2009 with the 30th anniversary of the **Cambridge River Festival**. Beginning with a procession from Harvard Square to the Charles River, the festival features local artists, performers, arts and cultural organizations and an enormous variety of visual art and food reflective of the city’s neighborhoods and cultural heritage. “The intent with the festival is to create an event that is a celebration of the depth and richness of the arts in Cambridge. Ultimately, we work to design a festival that provides a taste of what residents and visitors can regularly experience with the arts throughout the year in the city,” says CAC Executive Director, Jason Weeks.

DOWNLOAD PRESS PHOTOS: www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?albumID=225&level=album

-More-

CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 12 NOON – 6PM

Pre-Festival Procession

A Different Spin Circus and Fire Arts
Cambridge Rindge and Latin Drumline
Soaring Cloud Lion Dance Association
Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band

CREATE: GOSPEL & JAZZ STAGE

Weld Boathouse at JFK Street

Performers selected by The Jazz Club at the Multicultural Arts Center

Host: Eric Jackson, WGBH 89.7fm

Schedule

12:00 – 12:45 Union Baptist Church Children and Adult Choirs

1:00 – 2:15 Kendrick Oliver's New Life Jazz Ensemble featuring Vocalist Nicole Nelson – gospel-rooted jazz

2:30 – 3:30 Laszlo Gardony Trio – piano master and powerhouse trio

3:45 – 4:45 Obbini Tumbao – Afro-Cuban, jazz-infused dance music

5:00 – 6:00 Rebecca Parris – jazz quartet

FAMILY & CHILDREN STAGE

Memorial Drive at Plympton Street (Harvard University Side)

Host: Deena Anderson

Schedule

12:00-12:20 Peabody School Early Bird Singers

12:30-12:50 Cambridge Rindge and Latin School String Ensemble

1:00-1:50 Jungle Jim's Big Balloon Show

2:00-2:50 Mizero: Children's Choir of Rwanda – traditional Rwandan music and dance

3:00-3:50 Steve Hennessy as "Dr. Planet" – musical journey through the solar system

4:00-4:50 Vanessa Trien and The Jumping Monkeys – movin', groovin' kids' music

5:00-5:50 Rosi and Brian Amador of Sol y Canto with 13-year-old twin daughters Alisa & Sonia – bilingual Latin musical family fiesta

ENGAGE: INTERACTIVE DANCE STAGE

Memorial Drive across from Flagg Street

Coordinated and hosted by Alice Hunter, choreographer and instructor

Schedule

12:00-12:40 Ken Pierce Renaissance Dance Ensemble

12:50-1:10 José Mateo Ballet Theatre Youth Works

1:15-1:50 Chu Ling Dance Academy - traditional Chinese dance

2:00-2:50 Mladost Folk Ensemble

3:00-3:50 OrigiNation – hip-hop step

4:00-4:50 Lindy Bomb with Superchief Trio

5:00-5:50 Hips on Fire – salsa

CONNECT: FOLK & ROOTS STAGE

Weeks Footbridge at DeWolfe Street

Performers selected by TOAD and The Lizard Lounge

Host: Tim Bianchi and Mr. Napkins

Schedule

12:00 – 12:50 Childsplay – traditional and contemporary fiddle music

1:00 – 1:50 Gretel – folk music evolution

2:00 – 2:50 Baker Thomas and Friends

2:50 – 3:00 MC Mr. Napkins

3:00 – 3:50 Avi and Celia – soul-inspired duet delving deep into traditions of American music

3:50 – 4:00 MC Mr. Napkins

4:00 – 4:50 Miss Tess – Boston Music Awards’ “Outstanding Folk Artist of the Year”

4:50 – 5:00 MC Mr. Napkins

5:00 – 5:50 Tim Gearan – rock, funk, and gospel

INSPIRE: THEATER STAGE

Corporal Burns Park (Just off of Memorial Drive on Flagg Street)

Performers selected by Behind the 4th Wall

Host: Lace Campbell, Artistic Director of Beyond the 4th Wall

Schedule

12:00-12:25 Megan Atkinson Improv – *All the World Really is a Stage*

12:30-12:55 Beyond the 4th Wall Expression Theatre – excerpts from *Music Man* and *Fiddler on the Roof*

1:00-1:25 North Cambridge Family Opera – excerpts from *Weaver’s Wedding* and *Naturally Selected : A Darwin Bicentennial Revue*

1:30-1:55 Cambridge Rindge and Latin Modern Dance Company – dance theater collage with members of the Beyond the 4th Wall Teen Troupe

2:00-2:25 Mosaic – sketch comedy and performance art: unconventional social satire, political humor and personal confession

2:30-2:55 Metro Stage Company – excerpts from *Working*, a new Musical.

3:00-3:25 Central Square Theater – excerpts The Underground Railway Theater’s and Nora Theater’s upcoming productions

3:30-3:55 ImprovBoston Family Show – interactive theatrical games

4:00-4:25 ANIKAI Dance/Wendy Jehlen – excerpts from *He Who Burns*

4:30-4:55 Mill 6 Theatre – *My Name is Leslie*, a comedy by Larry Blamire

5:00-5:25 Behind the Mask Theatre – *Cat Mountain*, a play about the magical power of friendship and cats

5:30-6:00 Prize Drawings – t-shirts, candy and tickets to some of the best local theater!

INTERACTIVE AREAS, DEMONSTRATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

HISTORY OF THE CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL

Memorial Drive near JFK Street

Coordinators: Amanda Bowes, Kimberly Lambert, Isabel Campbell-Gross

- Timeline of The Cambridge River Festival with images, artifacts, and film
- Record your own thoughts and memories about the Cambridge River Festival!

POETRY

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Hosts: Peter Payack and Jean-Dany Joachim, Cambridge’s Poet Populists

- Poetry readings and activities
- Debut of the Cambridge Community Poem
- **3:00pm** - Inauguration of New Poet Populist by Vice Mayor Sam Seidel

-More-

ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Memorial Drive at the Weeks Footbridge

Participating Artists: Judy Motzkin, Bobby Brown, Meg and Erik Madsen-Bond

Host: Liza Gradstein, Cambridge Open Studios Coordinator

Cambridge Open Studios Artists will give collage, jewelry, pottery, and mask-making demonstrations and instruction.

CHILDS PLAY

Instrument-making, instruction, and playing

Host: Bob Childs

CAMBRIDGE FOLK LIFE - A Spectrum of Cambridge Cultures Old and New

Host: New England Folk Music Archives and Folklorist Millie Rahn

Featuring:

- Club 47 Audio and Visual Archives
- Tin Men, Richard “Dick” Clarke from Sheet Metal Workers Local #17
- Carl West Blacksmith Forge
- Amanda Nelsen, Bookbinder
- Bricklayers from Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Local #3

1960s INTERACTIVE HAPPENING WITH “JANIS JOPLIN “

Memorial Drive at Flagg Street

Artist and Host: Marianne Donnelly

- 1960s quiz and memory book
- **1:00 & 3:00** Interactive Performances (each performance is 30 minutes)

Public Art Installations

Summa of Peace, Cambridge Arts Council’s Public Art Youth Council

Sidewalk Sam with accompaniment by Street Performer Laura Vecchione of Selkie Music

Memorial Drive at JFK Street

John Montserrat’s *Wheel of Questions*

Memorial Drive across from Corporal Burns Park

Roving Performance

A Different Spin Circus and Fire Arts – lessons and workshops

Soaring Cloud Lion Dance Association

Living Statue: Cady Vishniac

QUICK FACTS

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS THE 30TH CAMBRIDGE RIVER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

WHAT: 30th Cambridge River Festival
Summer kicks off with the 30th Cambridge River Festival, a FREE one-day celebration of the arts along the banks of the Charles River, featuring:

- Hundreds of nationally known and local jazz, folk, blues, gospel, Latin, and world music performers on multiple stages
- Public art installations designed for the festival
- Family art-making activities
- Over 100 specialty food purveyors and craftspeople

WHEN: Saturday, June 13, 2009, 12 Noon – 6pm – *Rain or Shine!*

WHERE: Along a mile-long stretch of Memorial Drive between JFK St. and Western Ave.
Between Harvard Square & Central Square on Memorial Drive
Nearest MBTA station: Harvard Square on the Red Line
Wheelchair accessible

ATTENDANCE: 170,000+ annually

TICKETS: Event is FREE

PRODUCER: Cambridge Arts Council – an award-winning city arts agency founded in 1974

INFORMATION: www.cambridgeartscouncil.org
Phone: 617-349-4380

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Mara Littman, Director of Marketing & P.R., 617-349-4382 or mlittman@cambridgema.gov

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PHOTOS:

300 dpi photos are available at www.cambridgema.gov/gallery/?albumID=225&level=album

Click "Download large version."

Sponsors (as of June 4, 2009)

Festival Sponsors: Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day, Sabra Hummus, Ocean Spray Pomegranate Juice Drink, Fruit20 Essentials, Dunkin' Donuts, Owens Corning, Irving House

Media Sponsors: WGBH, Panorama, The New York Times, Weekly Dig, Artscope Magazine, Community Mapping, Inc., Metro Boston, and GateHouse Media New England

Site Sponsors: City of Cambridge, Department of Conservation & Recreation, and Harvard University

The Cambridge River Festival is produced by the **Cambridge Arts Council**, the Official Arts Agency for the City of Cambridge. Information is available at www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

Cambridge Arts Council – Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge.

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